

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Employment Rebounds in Metro Areas

JEFFERSON CITY - Employment rebounded in February in most of Missouri's metropolitan areas. Temporary drops that occurred in January -- particularly in school employment and in the automobile industry in St. Louis -- were reversed. Leisure and hospitality employment began to edge up from January lows. Retail trade and construction employment generally remained at winter levels, however.

The areas that had experienced the larger decreases in January generally had the larger February increases. Changes in total non-farm employment between January and February were:

- Columbia MSA: 3,400 jobs, mostly in schools and colleges
- Jefferson City MSA: 100 jobs
- Joplin MSA: 200 jobs
- Kansas City MSA: 5,200 jobs, mostly in construction, schools, and leisure and hospitality
- Kansas City MSA (Missouri portion): 400 jobs
- St. Joseph MSA: 200 jobs
- St. Louis MSA: 9,900 jobs, mostly in public schools, construction, motor vehicle manufacturing, professional and business services, and educational and health services
- Springfield MSA: 1,300 jobs, spread through a number of industries.

Over-the-year employment growth ranged from 0.6 percent in St. Joseph to 3.2 percent in Columbia.

Growth in Columbia totaled 3,400 jobs over the past 12 months. In the private service-providing sector, increases occurred in accommodation and food services, professional and scientific services, and employment services. State government employment including education added 800 jobs. In Jefferson City, non-farm payrolls grew by 2,100 jobs or 2.7 percent. About 1,300 jobs were added in the private service-providing industries, while state government was up by 700. Growth in the Joplin MSA was 1,700 jobs, or 2.3 percent. Manufacturing added 800 jobs, with the remaining growth spread across a number of industries.

Over-the-year growth in the Kansas City MSA was 20,000 jobs (2.1 percent). Most reported industry groups shared in the growth, with telecommunications and federal government being the main exceptions. In the Missouri portion of the MSA, growth was 8,800 jobs or 1.6 percent. As in the case of the whole metropolitan area, telecommunications and federal government reported lower employment than a year earlier.

In St. Joseph, employment in the private service-providing industries was up by 500 jobs over the year. This was partly offset by decreases of 100 jobs in the goods-producing industries and in state government.

St. Louis MSA employment increased by 20,800 jobs, or 1.6 percent, between February 2004 and February 2005. Goods-producing industries grew by 4,300 while the service-providing industries added 16,500 jobs. Manufacturing employment was up by 1,500, mainly the result of new aerospace industry contracts. Natural resources and construction added 2,800. Over-the-year job losses occurred in motor vehicle manufacturing, air transportation, telecommunications, and management of companies.

In Springfield, non-farm payrolls grew by 3,700 jobs, or 2.1 percent. Increases were across the board, except for telecommunications. Health care and social assistance added 1,100 jobs, primarily due to expansion of hospital facilities and an increase in outpatient clinics in outlying areas.

Turning to labor force data, unemployment fell in all of the state's seven metropolitan areas in February. The greatest decreases in unemployment rates occurred in Columbia, Jefferson City, and St. Louis, where rates fell by four-tenths of a point. From low to high, February unemployment rates were 3.9 percent in Columbia, 5.1 in Jefferson City and Springfield, 5.6 in Joplin, 5.7 in Kansas City, 6.3 in St. Louis, and 7.4 in St. Joseph.

In the micropolitan areas, unemployment rates ranged from 4.7 percent in Maryville (traditionally one of the lowest unemployment areas in the state), to 22.8 in Branson, where winter closures of tourism activities still dominated the labor markets. Most of the micropolitan areas saw some improvement in February. Unemployment increased slightly in Hannibal and Sedalia and was little changed in Branson.

County unemployment rates ranged from lows of 3.8 in Boone, 4.5 in Cole and Platte, 4.7 in Nodaway, 4.8 in Greene, and 4.9 in St. Charles to highs of 24.0 in Taney, 22.8 in Stone, 11.2 in Reynolds, 11.1 in Shannon, 10.6 in Washington, and 10.5 in Pemiscot and Schuyler.

MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS AND SINGLE-COUNTY LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs)
CURRENT MONTH-FEBRUARY 2005, PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS-DECEMBER 2004 AND JANUARY 2005, AND YEAR AGO FEBRUARY 2004

	FEB 2005	JAN 2005	DEC 2004	FEB 2004		FEB 2005	JAN 2005	DEC 2004	FEB 2004
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.8	5.7	5.1	6.0	MEXICO (Audrain Co.)	7.0	7.2	5.6	6.4
MISSOURI	6.4	6.6	5.4	5.9	MOBERLY (Randolph Co.)	6.2	6.7	5.2	6.1
					POPLAR BLUFF (Butler Co.)	6.5	6.8	5.8	6.1
<u>METROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					ROLLA (Phelps Co.)	5.1	5.4	4.4	5.1
COLUMBIA MSA	3.9	4.3	3.3	3.5	SEDALIA (Pettis. Co.)	8.0	7.9	6.3	6.7

Boone	3.8	4.2	3.2	3.4	SIKESTON (Scott Co.)	7.0	7.3	6.5	6.5
Howard	5.0	6.1	4.4	4.9	WARRENSBURG (Johnson Co.)	5.9	6.3	4.7	5.6
JEFFERSON CITY MSA	5.1	5.5	4.2	4.5	WEST PLAINS (Howell Co.)	6.2	6.6	5.5	6.1
Callaway	5.6	6.0	4.7	4.9	QUINCY (MO PT - Lewis Co.)	6.2	5.9	5.1	6.2
Cole	4.5	4.9	3.7	3.9	KEOKUK (MO PT - Clark Co.)	7.9	7.4	6.0	7.9
Moniteau	7.0	7.2	5.3	6.0					
Osage	5.1	5.4	3.8	4.9	<u>SINGLE COUNTY LMAs</u>				
JOPLIN MSA	5.6	5.8	4.8	5.3	Atchison	5.4	5.9	5.3	4.8
Jasper	5.6	5.8	4.8	5.4	Barry	6.8	6.6	5.5	5.9
Newton	5.5	5.7	4.9	5.3	Barton	5.7	5.8	4.9	5.5
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.7	5.8	4.9	5.5	Benton	7.8	8.3	6.6	8.2
KANSAS CITY MSA (MO PT)	5.8	5.8	5.1	5.4	Camden	8.8	9.5	7.2	8.2
Bates	7.6	7.9	6.1	7.5	Carroll	7.8	7.5	6.3	6.6
Caldwell	6.9	7.0	5.0	6.1	Carter	9.1	9.3	7.5	8.0
Cass	5.3	5.5	4.4	5.5	Cedar	7.1	7.4	6.3	7.2
Clay	4.6	4.6	3.8	4.2	Chariton	7.1	7.6	6.1	6.8
Clinton	6.1	6.4	4.9	5.6	Cooper	6.0	7.2	4.9	5.7
Jackson	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.9	Crawford	8.2	9.1	6.8	8.0
Lafayette	6.0	6.2	4.6	5.8	Dade	6.6	6.6	5.2	5.4
Platte	4.5	4.4	3.6	3.9	Daviess	6.1	6.5	4.7	6.3
Ray	6.0	6.3	4.8	5.6	Dent	8.2	8.3	7.2	7.9
ST. JOSEPH MSA	7.4	7.6	6.2	6.3	Douglas	7.9	7.7	6.7	7.5
ST. JOSEPH MSA (MO PT)	7.4	7.6	6.2	6.2	Gasconade	7.4	8.8	6.4	6.8
Andrew	7.1	7.5	5.6	5.8	Gentry	5.8	5.8	4.1	5.5
Buchanan	7.6	7.7	6.5	6.2	Grundy	6.8	7.2	5.8	6.8
DeKalb	6.6	6.9	4.8	6.6	Harrison	8.0	8.4	5.4	7.0
ST. LOUIS MSA	6.3	6.7	5.6	6.1	Henry	8.3	8.3	6.9	8.4
ST. LOUIS MSA (MO PT)	6.3	6.7	5.5	5.7	Hickory	10.3	11.1	9.6	10.1
Franklin	6.7	8.3	5.5	6.2	Holt	6.5	6.9	5.1	6.2
Jefferson	6.4	7.5	5.4	6.0	Iron	9.8	10.1	8.9	9.9
Lincoln	7.1	7.5	5.7	6.8	Knox	5.7	5.7	4.0	5.0
St. Charles	4.9	5.0	3.9	4.6	Lawrence	6.0	6.1	4.8	5.6
St. Louis Co.	5.7	6.0	5.1	5.2	Linn	10.3	10.0	8.9	8.2
Warren	6.7	6.8	5.1	6.1	Livingston	7.3	7.3	5.6	6.6
Washington	10.6	11.9	9.7	9.7	Macon	7.2	7.4	5.6	6.9
St. Louis City	9.3	9.3	8.9	8.4	Madison	7.6	8.2	6.9	7.0
SPRINGFIELD MSA	5.1	5.3	4.3	4.8	Maries	6.1	6.9	4.7	5.6
Christian	5.6	5.7	4.1	5.3	Mercer	6.0	6.3	4.4	6.5
Dallas	7.1	6.8	6.2	6.2	Miller	9.6	10.3	7.5	9.3
Greene	4.8	5.0	4.2	4.6	Mississippi	8.7	8.8	8.3	7.8
Polk	5.2	5.5	4.3	5.1	Monroe	7.6	7.8	6.4	7.6
Webster	5.4	5.7	4.7	5.0	Montgomery	7.7	7.8	6.1	7.5
FAYETTEVILLE MSA (MO PT - McDonald Co)	5.0	4.8	4.5	5.5	Morgan	9.9	10.3	8.1	8.9
					New Madrid	7.1	7.5	6.4	7.6
<u>MICROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					Oregon	6.6	6.8	5.7	5.7
BRANSON	22.8	22.9	8.6	20.8	Ozark	8.0	8.3	6.7	7.9
Stone	20.8	20.7	9.0	19.3	Pemiscot	10.5	10.7	9.4	9.9
Taney	24.0	24.1	8.4	21.8	Perry	5.1	5.4	4.3	4.5
CAPE GIRARDEAU	5.9	6.3	5.1	5.4	Pike	7.3	7.9	6.0	6.6
CAPE GIRARDEAU (MO PT)	5.5	5.9	4.7	5.1	Putnam	6.1	6.1	5.2	6.1
Bollinger	8.2	8.7	7.1	6.8	Reynolds	11.2	11.7	10.2	10.5
Cape Girardeau	5.1	5.5	4.3	4.8	Ripley	7.4	7.7	6.4	7.4
FARMINGTON (St. Francois Co.)	8.4	9.0	7.5	7.5	St. Clair	7.4	7.8	6.3	7.8
FT. LEONARD WOOD (Pulaski Co.)	6.2	6.5	5.2	5.6	Ste. Genevieve	7.1	7.9	6.1	6.6
HANNIBAL	7.8	7.6	6.2	7.1	Scotland	5.9	5.9	4.4	5.1
Marion	7.4	7.2	5.8	6.6	Shannon	11.1	11.7	10.1	11.9
Ralls	8.6	8.6	7.2	8.4	Shelby	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.3
KENNETT (Dunklin Co.)	9.1	9.3	8.0	8.5	Stoddard	7.9	8.6	7.1	7.0
KIRKSVILLE	6.0	6.8	4.4	6.1	Sullivan	8.2	8.3	7.0	9.3
Adair	5.3	6.2	4.0	5.7	Texas	8.4	8.6	7.2	8.4
Schuyler	10.5	10.1	6.8	8.6	Vernon	5.9	6.2	5.1	5.5
LEBANON (Laclede Co.)	7.5	7.8	7.2	8.9	Wayne	9.1	9.3	8.1	8.3
MARSHALL (Saline Co.)	6.4	7.0	5.6	5.8	Worth	5.1	5.2	4.1	4.7
MARYVILLE (Nodaway Co.)	4.7	5.0	3.4	4.3	Wright	7.9	8.0	7.0	7.8

NOTE: 2004 DATA ARE PROVISIONAL. THEY HAVE BEEN BENCHMARKED BUT ARE NOT YET OFFICIAL AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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